

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220516

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE FROM PANAMA NOV 7,
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6007

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA

REF: STATE 212801

1) I DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AT BREAKFAST
THIS MORNING BOGOTA MEETING. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT BOTH
BOGOTA MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY
KISSINGER WILL BE INFORMAL AND WITHOUT AGENDA SO THAT
THERE WILL BE MAXIMUM EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. HE ALSO BELIEVES
SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY SHOULD DEAL WITH
GENERAL POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES AND AVOID CONFRONTATION.

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HE DOES NOT INTEND TO REQUEST OTHER MINISTERS TO

PRONOUNCE THEMSELVES ON PANAMA CANAL.

2) I ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE STILL PLANNED TO LEAVE FOR BOGOTA NOVEMBER 13 AND HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. HE SAID THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEETING. HE HAD HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE INFORMAL, WIHOUT AGENDA, AND WITHOUT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. NOW HE UNDERSTOOD THE "EXPERTS" ARE TO MEET BEFORE NOV. 14 TO PREPARE AN AGENDA, ETC. THE PROPOSED THEMES ARE TECHNICAL-GATT NEGOTIATIONS, MONETARY POLICY, ETC. HE FAILED TO SEE HOW THE MINISTERS COULD PREPARE USEFULLY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY IF THEY WERE GOING TO FALL INTO THE OLD OAS ROUTINE. EVEN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SECRETARY HAD BECOME CONFUSED. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD IN NEW YORK THAT HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST MEETIN AND THEN THE COLOMBIANS INVITED HIM.

3) I AGREED WITH HIM ON THE DESIRABILITY OF AN INFORMAL MEETING AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY DESIRED DISCUSSION IN WHICH WE (THE U.S. AND LATINS) COULD FIND COMMON GROUND FOR CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND AVOID CONFRONTIATIONS. WE DID NOT NEED ANOTHER LIST OF OUR SINS SUCH AS WE RECEIVED AFTER THE MEETING AT VINA DEL MAR. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND HIS OBJECTION TO AN AGENDA DESIGNEO CONCERT LATIN AMERICA'S POSITION FOR GATT AND IMF NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT I DID THINK THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN HAD TO REACH A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE DIRECTION OF TRADE RELATIONS OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DECADES AND THAT I HOPED WE WOULD ALL BE REALISTIC ABOUT IT.WE HAD GONE TO PUNTA DEL ESTE IN 1967 AND ALL PRONOUNCED OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF A LATIN AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. AFTERWARDS LAFTA BECAME EVEN MORE MORIBUND AND THE SMALL AND MEDIUM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEGAN IN EARNEST TO FORM REGIONAL MARKETS. ARGENTIAN, BRAZIL AND MEXICO AS EXISTING "COMMON MARKETS" STOOD ALOOF. HE AGREED THAT AFTER PUNTA DEL ESTE LATIN AMERICA DID A 180 DEGREE TURN ON TRADE ARRANGEMENTS AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC THIS TIME.

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4) THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING ON THE RIO TREATY OR SECURITY WOULD BE BROUGHT UP. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO REISE THE CANAL ISSUE BUT WAS AWARE THAT THE MEXCAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER MIGHT. I SAID THAT INCLUSION OF CANAL ITEM IN A DOCUMENT THAT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC WOULD NOT HELP AT ALL; THAT WE ARE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE CONGRESS AS AN AFTERMATH OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. I URGED THAT

HE TRY TO PERSUADE THE OTHER MINISTERS, IF THE SUBJECT
DID ARISE, TO PUT THEIR VIEWS IN A SEPARATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY. HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT
HELP NEGOTIATIONS TO INCLUDE THE PANAMA CANAL ON THE
AGENDA, REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE
SUBJECT, AND PROMISED THAT IF IT DID COME UP HE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT IT BE HANDLED SEPARATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY
WITH THE SECRETARY.
SAYRE

UNQUOTE RUSH

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